

highest to lowest, of the Russian people. Mr. Asquith said that the total of Britain's loans to other belligerents was \$2,000,000,000.

"This is a war of mechanism, organization, endurance," he continued. "Victory seems likely to incline to the side that can arm itself best and stay longest. That is what we mean to do."

The Premier deprecated all recriminations. "Our business is to deal with the present, and forecast and provide for the future," he said. "We have satisfied the legitimate requirements and hopes of our Allies, and we have discharged the unique burden imposed upon a family of free people by our own sense of responsibility and our standard of duty and sacrifice."

No Time for Domestic Strife.

One thing Mr. Asquith opposed was "the sinister spirit of domestic strife." "We must not be ready to give and take, and take and give," he said, "and it must not be said that in the greatest moment of our history our arm was shorn of its strength by any failure on the part of either ruler or ruled to concentrate upon the common task the undivided energies and unbreakable, indomitable will of the British people."

The situation is a testing one. A survey of the last year calls for satisfaction at the great efforts and sacrifices made, and for regret that some mistakes and miscalculations have been made.

"Today we realize more clearly, through the mists of sophistry and mendacity in which Berlin seeks to obscure and befoul the international atmosphere, the sincerity of our own diplomacy and the passionate love of peace wherewith we sought to avert the catastrophe of a worldwide conflict."

It was the imperative call of duty which forced us to vindicate our national honor and enlist our whole strength in the sacred cause of freedom. I have no doubt either of the sincerity of our choice or of its ultimate triumph on the stricken field."

The adequacy of the air service was the subject of some criticisms by members, and brought a reply from Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, who admitted that the provisions which had been considered sufficient at the beginning of the war had to be materially developed. He said, however, that the service was now supplemented far more rapidly than was the danger it was organized to meet.

Balfour Discusses Air Raids.

There had been a great strain, Mr. Balfour continued, on the supply of anti-aircraft guns. The development of an aerial offensive had not been foreseen before the war, but the naval air service was now of great dimension.

"I cannot say," Mr. Balfour added, "that there would be a discontinuance of the attacks on London, but no one will suggest that such methods of terrorism are going in the slightest degree to shake the resolution of the British people."

Mr. Balfour frankly admitted that he was much surprised to discover when appointed First Lord of the Admiralty that he was responsible for a naval service, which had only a remote connection with naval warfare. If the government had set to work three or four years before, with a full knowledge of the requirements of aerial warfare, he said, the defenses of London would undoubtedly have been much better organized, but he hoped that the organization was now in a fair way to be complete.

The changes already made had been great, and all were in the way of dealing adequately with the new and great responsibility. No better assurance could be given the house that the defense of London was receiving the most careful attention than the appointment of Admiral Sir Percy Scott to take charge of them.

In respect to the protection provided against Zeppelins, London had been unfavorably contrasted with Paris, said Mr. Balfour. Such a comparison was most unfair. Paris was a fortified city, in fact a great fortress, whereas London is not a fortified city. None knew that better than the Germans, and under the rules of civilized warfare London should be immune from the attacks to which she had been subjected. But he confidently hoped that the efforts of the Admiralty would lead to a great diminution in the danger which might be expected from German airships.

After Mr. Balfour had spoken the debate turned on conscription. John Dillon, Nationalist, for East Mayo, vehemently denounced it. He said that Pitt had tried it during the Napoleonic wars with success, but it would be madness to try the experiment again, especially before the country was thoroughly informed on the matter.

Stephen Walsh, Laborite, said that 80 per cent of the members of the House of Commons elected to support the voluntary system before abandoning it for conscription. There must be overwhelming and unassailable evidence, he declared, to support the innovation.

David Marshall Mason, Liberal, regarded the utter crushing of Germany as a military impossibility. He expressed disappointment that the Premier's speech did not mention some hope of an honorable and early termination of the war. He thought the House was entitled to a more definite declaration of the government's policy than it had yet received.

On motion for adjournment Mr. Masen raised the question concerning a report that Germany had made peace overtures.

Lord Robert Cecil, under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replied that Germany had made no peace proposals, nor could he imagine any being made at the present time, which would be acceptable to the Allies.

GERMANY'S BOLT IS ALMOST SHOT, SAYS KITCHENER

Tells House of Lords Kaiser's Russian Victories Are Really Defeats.

BRITAIN'S ALLIES GET HIGH TRIBUTE

War Secretary Praises France's Resolution, Czar's Strategy and Italy's Feats.

London, Sept. 15.—"The Germans appear almost to have shot their bolt," said Earl Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, today. "Their advance in Russia, which at one time averaged five miles a day, now has diminished to less than one mile a day."

Earl Kitchener made the statement in a review of the war before the House of Lords. Cabinet ministers and members of Parliament flocked to listen to the War Secretary's long awaited statement. As far as the general survey of operations is concerned, it was far more optimistic than had been expected, and raised much enthusiasm among the listeners.

"The response of the country to calls for recruits has been little short of marvellous," said the field marshal, "but the problem how to insure the field force being kept at full strength is engaging our close attention, and will, I hope, soon receive a practical solution. I do not for one instant doubt that whatever sacrifice may prove necessary will be undertaken cheerfully by our people."

"For the last few months the front held by the Allies in the west has been practically unchanged. This does not mean that there has been relaxation of active work on the part of the forces in the field, for the continuous local fighting which has taken place all along the line has called for the display of incessant vigilance."

Positions Much Strengthened.

"Meanwhile our positions have been much strengthened, not only by careful elaboration of the system of trench fortifications that already existed, but also by a large increase in the number of heavy guns which have been placed along our lines."

"The Germans recently on several occasions used gas and liquid fire, and bombarded our lines with asphyxiating shells, but these forms of attack, lacking as they now do the element of surprise, have failed of their object and lost much of their offensive value owing to steps taken by us to counteract the effects of these pernicious methods."

"As new armies have become trained and ready to take the field, considerable reinforcements have been sent out to join Field Marshal French's command. You will be glad to hear his opinion of these troops, communicated to me. He writes: 'The units appear to be thoroughly well officered and commanded. The equipment is in good order and efficient. Several units of artillery have been tested behind the firing line in the trenches, and I hear very good reports of them. Their shooting has been extremely good, and they are quite fit to take their place in the line.'"

"These new divisions have now had the opportunity of acquiring by experience in actual warfare that portion of the necessary training of soldiers which it was impossible to give them in this country, and which, once acquired, will enable them effectively to take their place in line with the rest of the British army."

British Lines Extended.

"With these additional reinforcements, amounting to eleven divisions (about 210,000 men), Sir John French has been able to extend his lines and take over from the French approximately seventeen miles of additional front."

"Throughout the summer months the French have held their own along their extended line of the front, and in some places, notably near Arras and in Alsace, have made substantial progress. In the struggles around Arras early in June they captured notable heights at Notre Dame de Lorette, as well as a number of strongly fortified villages around this high ground, thereby securing an area of great tactical importance, in view of future operations."

"In Alsace a number of dominating eminences have been wrested from the enemy and have been subsequently held."

in the fact of formidable counter attacks. One particularly commanding summit, which overlooks the left bank of the Rhine in this quarter, and which had been the scene of continuous counter attacks for many months, after changing hands many times, rested finally in the possession of our allies. "French trenches along the entire front have been developed and strengthened, and now everywhere present a network of almost impenetrable fortifications. Of this I was able to satisfy myself during a visit lately to our allies, at the invitation of General Joffre, when I was profoundly impressed by the thoroughness of their work, and the morale of the French army. It was evident that officers and men recognized that the only possible termination of the war was to inflict on the enemy a thorough defeat. Their resolution to do this was never firmer or more intense."

Allied Aircraft Active.

"Our allies' aircraft have been particularly active. They have carried out numerous effective raids on a large scale, penetrating far into hostile territory."

"Turning to the Eastern theatre: The enemy, taking advantage of their central position, since early in June have been employing a very large proportion of their forces in strenuous efforts to crush our Russian ally. In prosecution of these operations, which we all have followed closely, the Germans, in addition to their great material superiority, developed a vast preponderance of artillery which enabled them to force the Russians from their defences. The German objective was evidently to destroy the Russian army as a force in being, and thus set free their troops for action elsewhere; but, as in the case of many other plans arranged by the German staff during this war, there has been a signal failure to carry out the original intentions."

"In the history of this war few episodes stand out more prominently, more creditably, than the masterly manner in which the Russian army, distributed along a line of 750 miles, have been handled while facing violent assaults from an enemy greatly superior in numbers, especially of guns and munitions. The success of this great rearguard action has been rendered possible by the really splendid fighting qualities of the Russian soldier, who in every case where actual conflict has taken place has shown himself infinitely superior to his adversary."

Enemy's Plans Defeated.

"These fighting qualities of the Russian army empowered her able generals to repulse the German attacks, and competent staff to carry out the retirement of the whole line over some 100 to 200 miles, without allowing the enemy to break through at any point or by surrounding their forces to bring about a tactical panic. But, as the Russian army has been able to retreat, it has been subjected during recent months, but the German forces also had to pay a heavy toll for their advance into Russia, and who will venture to say that the present position is relaxed which armies suffered more?"

"It must not be forgotten that Russia, with her vast territory, always has been able ultimately to envelop and annihilate large invading armies. In this case certainly is no less capable to-day than she was a century ago. As regards the net result, all that the Germans can place to their credit is that an enormous sacrifice they have captured a few miles of territory. The evidence shows that the best fortifications, and practically the only ones, that can effectively resist the new machinery of war, are those which can be quickly destroyed by the enemy."

"The German army, far from falling out of the fighting lists, as Germany fondly hoped, is still a powerful and confident unit, and the determination and confidence of the troops, fortified by the increasing supply of munitions, have risen in proportion to the strain imposed on them. In this momentous hour of stress His Imperial Majesty the Czar has taken executive command of his armies in the field. The enthusiasm created by his appearance will serve to concentrate all the efforts of his officers and men on driving back the invaders and preventing them from reaching any vital portion of the empire."

Victories Really Defeats.

"To sum up, we may fairly say that while the Germans have prevailed by sheer weight of guns and at immense cost to themselves in forcing back the Russian front, nothing but latinateatory and evanescent fortresses have been gained. Thus their strategy has clearly failed, and the victories they claim may only prove, as military history has so often demonstrated, to be defeats in disguise."

Dwelling on Italy's part in the war, Earl Kitchener said:

"The achievements of the Italian army have been truly remarkable, and the manner in which heavy pieces were hauled into almost inaccessible positions on lofty mountain peaks and in spite of great difficulties evokes universal admiration. The Italian army now occupies strategic positions of first importance. The gallant conduct of the infantry of the line in action has impressed upon their enemies the great military value of the Italian army, while the bold feats of Alpine troops and bersaglieri when scaling rugged mountain sides were marvellous examples of successful enterprise."

On the Gallipoli Peninsula, during operations in June several Turkish trenches were captured and our own lines appreciably advanced and our positions consolidated."

Allies Land at Suva.

"Considerable reinforcements having arrived, a surprise landing on a large scale at Suva Bay was successfully accomplished on August 6 without any serious opposition."

"At the same time an attack was launched by the Australian and New Zealand corps from the Anzac position and a strong offensive was delivered from Cape Helles, in the direction of Krithia. In this latter action French troops played a prominent part and showed to high advantage their usual gallantry and fine fighting qualities."

"The attack from Anzac, after a series of hotly contested actions, was carried to the summit of Sari Bair and Chanak Bair, dominating positions in this area. The arrival of transports and the disembarkation of troops in Suva Bay were designed to enable troops to support this attack. Unfortunately, however, the advance from Suva Bay was not developed quickly enough, and the movement forward was brought to a standstill after an advance of about two and one-half miles."

"The result was that the troops from Anzac were unable to retain their position on the crest of the hills, and after being repeatedly counter attacked they were ordered to withdraw to positions lower down. These positions have been

effectively consolidated and now, joining with the line occupied by the Suva Bay force, form a connected front of more than twelve miles."

"From the latter position a further attack on the Turkish intrenchments was delivered on the 21st, but after several hours of sharp fighting it was not found possible to gain the summit of the hills occupied by the enemy, and the evening space being unsuitable for defence the troops were withdrawn to their original position."

"Since then comparative quiet has prevailed and much needed rest has been given to our troops."

"In the course of these operations the gallantry and resourcefulness of the Australian and New Zealand troops of the method of warfare pursued by the enemy in General Hamilton's reports. "It is not easy to appreciate at their full value the enormous difficulties which have attended the operations in the Gallipoli Peninsula, and the temper with which our troops have met them."

"There is now abundant evidence of a process of demoralization having set in among the German-led, or rather in the extremely heavy losses and to the progressive failure of their resources. It is only fair to acknowledge that, judged from a purely tactical point of view, the method of warfare pursued by the Turks are vastly superior to those which have disgraced their German masters."

"Throughout the co-operation of the fleet has been intensely valuable, and the concerted action between the sister services has been in every way in the highest degree satisfactory."

"Of the fighting in Mesopotamia, Earl Kitchener said, reconnaissance had shown that the Euphrates was clear of Turks for a distance of sixty miles. "Since this victory," he added, "there has been no further fighting on the Euphrates, Tigris or Karun river. Climatic conditions in this theatre of war have rendered the operations extremely arduous."

Many More Recruits Needed.

"As I have informed your lordships, some of the new armies we have prepared and equipped for the war are already in the field and others will quickly follow. The response of the country to calls for recruits to form these armies has been little short of marvellous, but it must be borne in mind that the provision of men to maintain the forces in the field depends to a great degree on a large and continuous supply of recruits."

"The provision to keep up their strength during 1915 has caused a shortage of recruits, which has been accentuated and rendered more pressing by the recent falling off in the number coming forward to enlist, although every effort has been made to obtain our requirements under the present system."

"I am sure we all fully realize that the strength of the armies we are sending out must be fully maintained to the very end of the war. Our purpose is to require a large addition to the numbers of recruits joining. The problem of how to secure an adequate supply of men and thus ensure the field force being kept at full strength is engaging our close attention and will, I hope, very soon receive a practical solution."

"The returns of the registration act, which will shortly be based on a calculation of the resources of the country and to determine the number of men available for the army after providing for the necessary services of the country as well as those of our munition works."

"Whatever decision may be arrived at in the full light of the facts before us must undoubtedly be founded on the resources of the country. The execution of the war and the protection of our shores, and will be the result of an impartial inquiry as to how we can most worthily fulfil our national obligations."

German Bolt Nearly Shot.

"The Germans appear almost to have shot their bolt. Their advance into Russia, which at one time was carried out at an average daily rate of approximately five miles, has now diminished to less than one mile a day, and we see the forces which they boastfully described as defeated and broken troops dying before them, still doggedly and pluckily fighting along the whole line and in some places, indeed, turning on the jaded invaders and inflicting heavy losses."

"The Russian army, far from falling out of the fighting lists, as Germany fondly hoped, is still a powerful and confident unit, and the determination and confidence of the troops, fortified by the increasing supply of munitions, have risen in proportion to the strain imposed on them. In this momentous hour of stress His Imperial Majesty the Czar has taken executive command of his armies in the field. The enthusiasm created by his appearance will serve to concentrate all the efforts of his officers and men on driving back the invaders and preventing them from reaching any vital portion of the empire."

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ARABIC DISPUTE PUT SQUARELY UP TO BERNSTORFF

Relations Between U. S. and Germany Depend on His Influence.

ENVOY ACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY

President Will Await Result of His Efforts to Influence Berlin's Action.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Sept. 15.—"Watchful waiting" is the government's programme for the next fortnight in its relations with Germany. During that time there will be no direct communication with Berlin, but any exchanges of views that may be necessary will take place informally between Secretary Lansing and Ambassador von Bernstorff.

At the end of two weeks it is expected that one of two things will happen. Either Germany will furnish this government with a plain statement of her submarine policy or Ambassador Gerard will be recalled and the German Ambassador sent home.

As already indicated in The Tribune, the German government could satisfy the United States and dispose of the whole controversy by furnishing Ambassador Gerard with a copy of the instructions said to have been given to submarine commanders to destroy no merchant vessels illegally. If the instructions are in fact as they are represented in the informal communications of Count von Bernstorff and in the Arabic note, they would leave no doubt of the sincerity of the German government's decision to do this, or offers similar assurances in some equally acceptable form, the good faith of the Berlin Foreign Office will remain under suspicion, and the recall of the American Ambassador.

Persons close to the White House declare that the President is thoroughly out of patience with Germany's attitude in the matter of the submarine issue in plain, unequivocal terms, and is making his last stand for friendly relations on the terms stated. Newspaper opinions from all parts of the country are said to have impressed the President that the country is tired of being toyed with by Germany and is ready to back the President in decisive action unless Germany comes down to a reasonable compromise.

It was announced at the State Department today that Ambassador von Bernstorff suggested that a summary of the evidence in the Arabic case held by the government be sent to the German Foreign Office. Secretary Lansing accordingly cabled to Ambassador Gerard the substance of the affidavits of American survivors and instructed him to present it to Foreign Minister von Jagow.

It is understood that Count von Bernstorff was greatly impressed by the evidence, and was inclined to agree with the government's position. His explanation as given in the Arabic note is untenable. It is because of this apparently incontrovertible evidence that President Wilson has been forced to the conclusion that Germany must withdraw the plea of justification, or modify it by the admission that proof of indemnity would make Germany liable for indemnity.

The President's determination to make the Arabic case the test of Germany's sincerity has been arrived at, according to those closest to him, after full consideration of the consequences of his action. He is declared ready to break relations with Germany if the conditions warrant it, in spite of the German Ambassador's threat that a break would lead inevitably to war.

Ambassador von Bernstorff has been given to understand that his stay in this country is dependent on his ability to bring his government around to the American view of the Arabic case and to impress on the Foreign Office the necessity of responding to the American demand for assurances with a precise definition of its policy toward merchant ships. The Ambassador, it is understood, has accepted the responsibility, and is confident that Berlin will back him up in the attitude he has adopted toward the demands of the President.

As the situation stands to-night, therefore, it depends entirely on Count von Bernstorff and the extent of his influence with his government whether friendly relations between the United States and Germany will continue. Officials express the greatest optimism, stating that there is no question of the German government's desire to maintain relations and that Germany is negotiating only with a view to learning how little she can grant and still avoid a break.

President Wilson's attitude, as summarized in high official quarters, is that the country is tired of notes and of interminable discussions of technicalities without real progress. Words, no matter how beautiful, cannot take the place of a straight and simple act. The President's friends have impressed on him that the country is beginning to drift away from him and that the next development in the controversy with Germany, unless the American demands are complied with, must mean action.

The President is strongly opposed to a break with Germany and will go to any reasonable lengths to avoid it. He feels that he has gone as far in meeting Germany as can be expected. He has been brought to a realization that the people believe that the time for words is past and that the next development in the controversy with Germany, unless the American demands are complied with, must mean action.

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VON BERNSTORFF, BACK AND HAPPY, SEES NO CRISIS

Berlin's Reply To Be Satisfactorily Concise, Ambassador Declares.

SAYS HE AND LANSING ARE IN FULL ACCORD

Expects Relations Between U. S. and Germany To Be More Cordial Than Ever.

"There is no crisis in the affairs between this country and Germany, as far as I am able to see, and unless I am very much mistaken in my judgment the relations of the two countries will be more cordial and friendly than ever within a fortnight."

This was the emphatic statement made last night at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel by Count Johann Heinrich von Bernstorff, German Ambassador, who yesterday morning returned from Washington. While the ambassador refused to issue an official statement, he let it be understood that he considered the German-American situation as very favorable, thanks to the "get-together" policy which he has adopted in the transaction of his diplomatic business.

"These informal discussions between State Department officials and myself have brought about a complete understanding, which has enabled me to inform my government of the intimate views of the administration," he said.

He also admitted that he embodied in the transmission of these views a memorandum containing pertinent suggestions to the German Foreign Office. These, the Ambassador hopes, will be headed by the home government, so that the reply, which he expects within a fortnight, will be not only satisfactory, but so concise that it will eliminate permanently the contested points of issue between this country and Germany.

Has a Busy Day.

A mass of accumulated mail, telegrams and routine matters awaited the Ambassador's attention upon his arrival at his suite at the Ritz-Carlton yesterday. He was secluded most of the day with his secretaries and attaches of the German Embassy, who had come from Cedarhurst to confer with their chief. When he appeared in the hotel lobby late in the afternoon it was apparent that his visit to Washington had removed the strain of the domestic burden of the last few weeks and had enlivened his spirits.

"Secretary Lansing and myself are in thorough understanding upon every subject we discussed," Count von Bernstorff smilingly announced to waiting reporters. But he added that diplomatic etiquette prohibited him from making public at this time the points which were discussed.

Questioned about the report that the German government would enter an official protest against the proposed billion dollar loan to the Allies on no other security than a national bond issue, Count von Bernstorff declared that this was a logical procedure. Although there were persistent rumors that Dr. Dumba had arrived in the city with his wife to make farewell calls preliminary to his departure, which was reported to have been set for September 22, no trace of the Austrian diplomat could be found yesterday. At several of the hotels where he might have taken quarters it was denied that he had been there, and Count von Bernstorff said that he had no knowledge of Dr. Dumba's whereabouts.

Count von Bernstorff was greatly impressed by the evidence, and was inclined to agree with the government's position. His explanation as given in the Arabic note is untenable. It is because of this apparently incontrovertible evidence that President Wilson has been forced to the conclusion that Germany must withdraw the plea of justification, or modify it by the admission that proof of indemnity would make Germany liable for indemnity.

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